

Nepalese Prime Minister's Visit to India

2695. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepalese Prime Minister had visited India recently to hold talks with Indian leaders on Obstacles in Indo-Nepal trade relations, to review Indo-Nepal Treaty of 1950, and to set right all the wrongs that have crept into Indo-Nepal relations since the last visit of PM of that country to New Delhi as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 28th July, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details of discussion and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. G. P. Koirala, paid an official goodwill visit to India from July 31 to August 6, 2000 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India. He was accompanied by the Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Chakra Prasad Bastola and senior officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

During his official engagements in New Delhi on August 1 and 2, 2000, the Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President and the Vice-President of India, and had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India, which was followed by delegation level talks. He also received our Minister of External Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence, Finance, Human Resource Development and Water Resources, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Leader of the Opposition. The discussions covered the entire gamut of our bilateral relations with Nepal.

The Joint Press Statement issued at the conclusion of the visit highlighted the wide-ranging discussions and the decisions taken to further strengthen the close and friendly relations between the two countries. A copy of the Joint Press Statement is given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 190, Annexure No. 36]

The outcome of the visit confirmed the stable foundation of and steady progress in relations, besides reflecting a common approach to

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attaining meaningful economic development through mutually beneficial cooperation.

Indo-Nepal Extradition Treaty

2696. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for Indo-Nepal extradition treaty is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Extradition arrangements between India and Nepal are at present governed by the Treaty of Extradition of October 2, 1953. Both India and Nepal are also signatories of the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. The question of updating the Extradition Treaty of 1953 was discussed during the recent Home Secretary-level talks between the two countries in Kathmandu from July 5-7, 2000.

During those discussions, the two sides agreed on the need for updating of the existing bilateral extradition arrangements in keeping with the practical requirements of their law enforcement agencies and the changed nature of crimes. It was agreed that the experts of the two sides would meet shortly to hold discussions on a draft of the revised bilateral extradition arrangements and submit its report to the two Governments at an early date.

The proposed updated Extradition Treaty seeks to make the existing arrangement between the two countries more effective in the suppression of crime by incorporating relevant provisions for the reciprocal extradition of offenders.